

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 311 urban areas participating in the second quarter 2006 *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*, the after-tax cost for a professional/managerial **standard of living ranged from more than twice the national average in New York (Manhattan) NY to over 20 percent below the national average in McAlester OK.** The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is compiled and published quarterly by ACCRA – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

Second Quarter 2006

National Average for 311 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	204.7	1	McAlester OK	77.4
2	San Francisco CA	169.4	2	Joplin MO	82.6
3	Honolulu HI	161.3	3	Laredo TX	83.1
4	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	156.1	4	McAllen TX	83.7
5	Orange County CA	153.2	5	Paris TX	84.0
6	San Jose CA	151.6	6	Pryor Creek OK	84.3
7	Stamford CT	149.3	7	Salina KS	84.3
8	Nassau County NY	144.7	8	Douglas GA	84.4
9	Oakland CA	143.9	9	Lancaster SC	84.6
10	New York (Queens) NY	143.7	10	Harlingen TX	85.0

The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 50,000 prices covering almost 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

Where is the least expensive toothpaste?

Each quarter, ACCRA collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. This quarter, ACCRA features the communities with the most and least expensive toothpaste. ACCRA collected data on the cost of a six or seven ounce tube of Crest or Colgate brand toothpaste.

**The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Toothpaste
in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)
Second Quarter 2006
Average for 311 Urban Areas = \$2.37**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$4.11	1	Dyersburg TN	\$1.52
2	San Francisco CA	\$3.99	2	Harrisonburg VA	\$1.67
3	Juneau AK	\$3.50	3	Lancaster SC	\$1.72
4	San Jose CA	\$3.37	4	Dover DE	\$1.73
5	San Diego CA	\$3.36	5	Prescott-Prescott Valley AZ	\$1.77

A Closer Look at California

California cities frequently rate among the most expensive places in the index and prices are often above the national average. Here's a snapshot of prices for five items in five California cities:

Quarter 2, 2006	T-Bone Steak per pound	Dozen Eggs One dozen grade A large	Ibuprofen 200 mg., 50 tablets, Advil	Toothpaste 6 or 7 oz., Colgate or Crest	Shampoo 15 oz. bottle, Alberto VO5
Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	\$8.72	\$2.23	\$7.54	\$2.83	\$1.64
Sacramento CA	\$10.59	\$1.61	\$6.68	\$2.62	\$1.25
San Diego CA	\$8.47	\$2.25	\$7.29	\$3.36	\$1.28
San Francisco CA	\$10.31	\$2.87	\$7.53	\$3.99	\$1.73
San Jose CA	\$10.59	\$2.55	\$6.36	\$3.37	\$1.19
National Mean	\$8.38	\$1.15	\$5.80	\$2.37	\$1.07

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$140 per year (print or PDF version) or \$250 per year (electronic version). Send check, payable to ACCRA, P.O. Box 100127, Arlington VA 22210-0407, or subscribe on the Internet at www.coli.org.

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